

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS
ARE ATTACHED:
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ER 1217x 88

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ER 1217x/1 88

SUBJECT:

26 May 1988

NOTE FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: [REDACTED]

Chief, Protocol Branch

SUBJECT: Annual Memorial Ceremony

Judge Webster:

Enclosed is background package for the Annual Memorial Ceremony to be held in the lobby of the Headquarters Building on Tuesday, 31 May 1988 at 2:30 p.m. A copy of the program is on the left of the folder; the program will open with the Star Spangled Banner; you will then be introduced by [REDACTED] the Chairman of the Agency's Management Advisory Group; after your remarks, Dick Stolz will make commemorative remarks about [REDACTED] an Agency employee who was killed in Vietnam in 1975.

In addition, there will be six other Agency employees who have either a father or husband represented on the wall. They will all be seated in the audience to your right.

After Mr. Stolz's remarks, [REDACTED] Office of the Inspector General will make remarks to dedicate the Air America plaque; this plaque will be placed in the 1E corridor of the first floor, across from the Security Duty Office. Air America was a proprietary which provided air support for US operations in Southeast Asia during the period 1949 through 1975.

The program will close with your placing a wreath by the Memorial Plaque; a moment of silence; and the singing of America the Beautiful. The program will last approximately 30 minutes.

I will meet you and Mr. Gates in the DCI suite at 2:15; both Mr. Stolz and [REDACTED] will join us, and we will proceed to the lobby as a group.

cc: DDCI
Mr. Stolz

Only done

P-313-1R

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PROPOSED REMARKS
BY
WILLIAM H. WEBSTER
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AT THE
SECOND ANNUAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY
CIA HEADQUARTERS
MAY 31, 1988

WE ARE HERE TODAY -- AT THIS SECOND MEMORIAL CEREMONY -- TO HONOR OUR COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES WHILE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY. WE ARE HERE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THEIR GREAT COURAGE AND THEIR SACRIFICE; AND TO RECALL, IN A PRIVATE CEREMONY, OUR OWN LOSS.

THOSE OF US IN THIS ROOM ARE NOT MERELY OBSERVERS AT THIS CEREMONY. AND WE ARE DOING MORE THAN NOTING STARS ON A WALL OR NAMES IN A BOOK. WE ARE REMEMBERING MEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE OUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES. MEN AND WOMEN OF INTELLIGENCE, ACCOMPLISHMENT, AND PATRIOTISM.

AND -- IN REMEMBERING THEM -- WE ARE REMEMBERING AND REAFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MISSION FOR WHICH THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES. WE IN INTELLIGENCE ARE NOT CALLED UPON TO SERVE IN SAFE HAVENS. INSTEAD, WE ARE ASKED TO COLLECT INTELLIGENCE IN AREAS THAT ARE DISTANT AND HOSTILE, OFTEN AT CONSIDERABLE RISK TO OURSELVES AND OUR

FAMILIES. WE UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THIS RISK BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT WITHOUT INTELLIGENCE OUR NATION WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY.

EARLIER THIS MONTH, I JOINED OTHERS IN A CEREMONY AT ARLINGTON CEMETARY COMMEMORATING WILLIAM BUCKLEY. PRESIDENT REAGAN SENT A LETTER TO THE BUCKLEY FAMILY, SAYING OF BILL: "HE KNEW WHAT DANGERS AWAITED HIM, NOT BECAUSE OF WHAT HE WAS AS AN INDIVIDUAL, BUT BECAUSE OF WHAT HE STOOD FOR AND THE CAMPAIGNS OF FEAR AND TERROR HE STOOD AGAINST. HE FACED THOSE DANGERS NOT FOR PERSONAL ADVANTAGE OR PUBLIC ACCLAIM; INDEED, HE FACED THEM KNOWING THAT HIS WORK WOULD EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDE THE KINDS OF RECOGNITION MOST OFTEN ACCORDED A PERSON OF HIS ABILITY."

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S WORDS APPLY AS WELL TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WE HONOR TODAY. WHETHER THEY SERVED AS AGENCY OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES OF AIR AMERICA, EACH CONTRIBUTED SKILL, ENERGY, AND LOYALTY IN ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND OPPOSING CAMPAIGNS OF FEAR AND

TERROR. AND LIKE BILL BUCKLEY, THEY KNEW THEY WOULD NOT RECEIVE THE PUBLIC RECOGNITION THAT THEIR ACTS OF BRAVERY MERITED.

IT IS BOTH OUR PRIVILEGE AND OUR DUTY TO RECOGNIZE THOSE ACTS OF HEROISM, PRIVATELY OFFERED, FOR THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION. WE ALONE KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONTRIBUTION THESE MEN AND WOMEN MADE. AND WE SHARE IN THE LEGACY OF COURAGE, DEVOTION, AND SELFLESSNESS THAT IS THEIR ENDURING GIFT TO THEIR COUNTRY.

STAT THE MAN WE HAVE CHOSEN TO HONOR SPECIFICALLY TODAY IS

STAT THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS, DICK STOLZ, WILL NOW TELL YOU ABOUT HIS LIFE AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO HIS STAR ON THE WALL.

Annual Memorial Ceremony

1430 Hours, Tuesday, 31 May 1988
Lobby, Headquarters Building
(North Wall)

SCENARIO

STAT 1425 [] Chief, Protocol Branch, will escort the DCI and DDCI from the DCI suite to their seats in the 1st floor lobby and remain standing for the National Anthem and then be seated.

STAT 1430 [] Chairman, DCI Management Advisory Group, will be at lectern and request audience to remain standing for singing of the National Anthem with the Agency Keynotes*.

STAT []

STAT [] will introduce the DCI.

DCI remarks.

At completion of DCI remarks, he will introduce Mr. Richard Stolz, DDO; DCI will return to his seat.

DDO remarks.

DDO will then be seated.

STAT [] will then return to the lectern and introduce Mr. Office of the Inspector General, who will dedicate the Air America plaque.

STAT [] remarks.

STAT [] will then return to his seat.

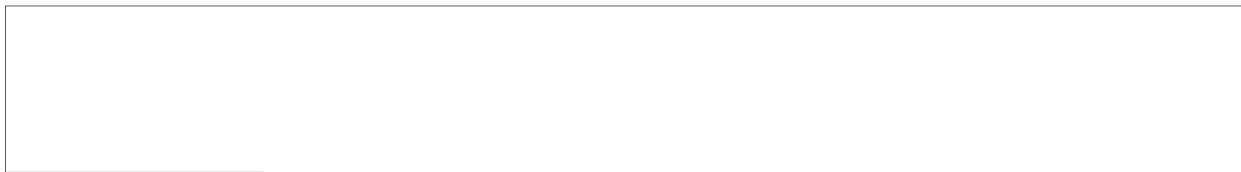
STAT [] will return to lectern and request that the DCI place a wreath (to be placed in center of memorial plaque) followed by a moment of silence. (NOTE: Wreath will be 36" in diameter and will be live greens and will be wired on a stand). DCI will lift wreath and move to center of plaque. DCI will return to his seat for moment of silence.

*This is the Agency choral group.

STAT [redacted] (who will already be at lectern) will ask the assembly to join the Keynotes in closing the program with the singing of "America the Beautiful".

DCI and DDCI will then proceed to audience (to the right, first row) and shake hands of family members who are Agency employees and attending ceremony.)

STAT



STAT

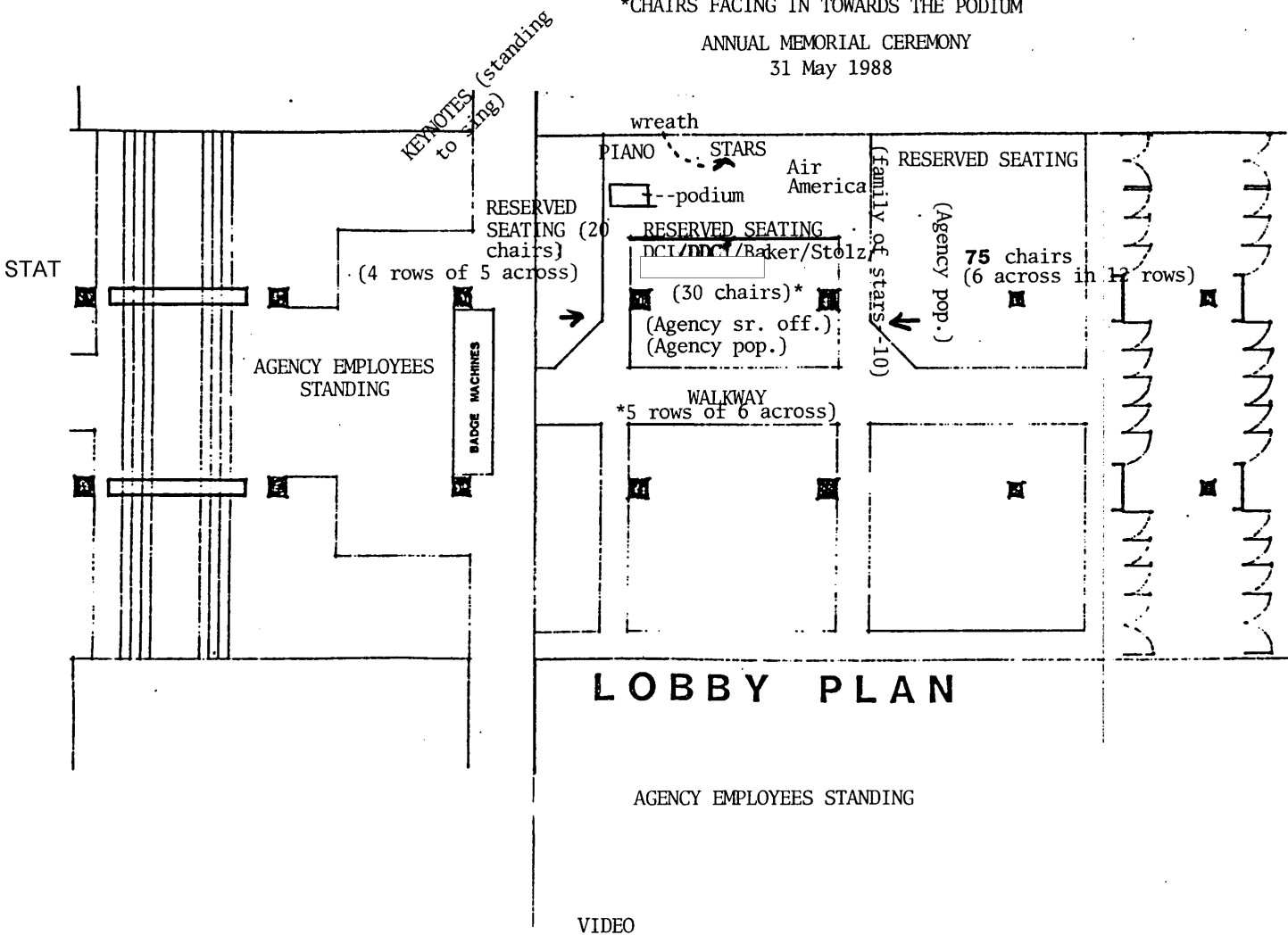
[redacted] will then escort the DCI and DDCI to the DCI elevator.

Lobby Plan

*CHAIRS FACING IN TOWARDS THE PODIUM

ANNUAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY

31 May 1988



Operator's
Script

SCRIPT

STAT

[REDACTED]
CHAIRMAN, DCI MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

ANNUAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY
31 MAY 1988, 1430 HOURS
HEADQUARTERS LOBBY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: WOULD YOU REMAIN STANDING AND JOIN
IN SINGING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

STAT

(AFTER NATIONAL ANTHEM, [REDACTED] MAKES THE FOLLOWING
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS):

STAT

STAT

I AM HONORED TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE SECOND
ANNUAL CEREMONY TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF CIA EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE
DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY AND WHOSE HEROISM AND DEVOTION TO OUR
PROFESSION IS SYMBOLIZED BY A MEMORIAL STAR HERE IN OUR
HEADQUARTERS. THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY WAS ADOPTED IN 1987
AS A RESULT OF A SUGGESTION BY [REDACTED] OF THE
DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS THAT WE SHOULD REMEMBER AND HONOR OUR
FALLEN COLLEAGUES IN THIS FASHION. [REDACTED] HAS JOINED US HERE
TODAY FOR THIS CEREMONY. AS CHAIRMAN OF THE DCI MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY GROUP, I WAS ASKED TO OPEN THIS CEREMONY BECAUSE THE
DCI MAG WAS INVOLVED IN SPONSORING THIS PROGRAM.

TODAY THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE WILL SPEAK TO
US. THEN THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS WILL DESCRIBE THE
SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE AGENCY OF ONE OF THE OFFICERS

REMEMBERED BY A STAR HERE IN THE HEADQUARTERS LOBBY, AS WELL AS
THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS DEATH WHILE SERVING OVERSEAS. THIS
WILL BE FOLLOWED BY [REDACTED] CURRENTLY OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL'S STAFF, WHO WILL DEDICATE A PLAQUE
COMMEMORATING THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES WHILE SERVING WITH
"AIR AMERICA."

I NOW HAVE THE HONOR TO INTRODUCE TO YOU THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE, WILLIAM H. WEBSTER.

(REMARKS BY JUDGE WEBSTER)

[REDACTED] RETURNS TO LECTERN AND INTRODUCES [REDACTED]

(DEDICATION BY [REDACTED])

[REDACTED] RETURNS TO THE LECTERN.)

NOW, MAY I ASK YOU TO STAND WHILE JUDGE WEBSTER PLACES A
WREATH IN MEMORY OF OUR COLLEAGUES; AND REMAIN STANDING FOR A
MOMENT OF SILENCE.

(AFTER MOMENT OF SILENCE [REDACTED] WILL ASK ASSEMBLY TO JOIN
IN CLOSING THE PROGRAM WITH "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL," SUNG BY
THE KEYNOTES.)

DDO's Remarks

~~SECRET~~

ANNUAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY

31 MAY 1988

REMARKS BY RICHARD STOLZ

THANK YOU JUDGE WEBSTER. I AM HONORED TO HAVE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN YOU IN REMEMBERING AGENCY COLLEAGUES WHO
HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY AND THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

25X1

TODAY WE SINGLE OUT ONE SUCH INDIVIDUAL FOR SPECIAL COMMENT

~~SECRET~~

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S E C R E T

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

A STAR ON THE WALL OF THE AGENCY IS PRECIOUS LITTLE WHEN WE CONSIDER THE NATURE OF [REDACTED] SACRIFICE. THOSE OF US HERE TODAY KNOW THAT [REDACTED] AND OTHER FALLEN COLLEAGUES DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND THE CIA. BECAUSE WE CANNOT SPEAK OF THE WORK THAT WE DO -- JUST AS [REDACTED] COULD NOT SPEAK OPENLY OF THE WORK HE UNDERTOOK [REDACTED] YEARS AGO -- IT IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT THAT SACRIFICES SUCH AS [REDACTED] ARE KNOWN TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE THIS AGENCY.

25X1

25X1

AMERICA, BEING THE FREE SOCIETY IT IS, WILL ALWAYS PRODUCE SOME PEOPLE WHO EXPRESS DOUBT AND WORRY ABOUT CIA'S MISSION. BUT ALL OF US HERE TODAY KNOW AND APPRECIATE THAT WHAT WE DO IS VITAL TO THIS NATION'S SECURITY AND WELL BEING. OUR BUSINESS IS AND WILL REMAIN A BUSINESS INVOLVING RISK -- SOMETIMES GRAVE RISK. THE PRESIDENT AND THE POLICYMAKERS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT UNDERSTAND THIS -- AS DO WE. [REDACTED] ALSO UNDERSTOOD.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

25X1

25X1

WE HONOR [] TODAY, AND THE 51 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO GAVE
THEIR LIVES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY. []
PERSONAL HONOR, COURAGE, DEDICATION TO DUTY TO HIS COUNTRY AND
TO THE CIA IS SOMETHING OF WHICH WE CAN ALL BE PROUD. WE
DEDICATE THIS DAY TO HIS MEMORY AND TO HIS FAMILY.

S E C R E T

STAT

Background on

Page Denied

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STAT

Remarks

Remarks by _____
in dedicating Air America Plaque

31 May 1988

Dedication - Air America Plaque

In 1950, CIA acquired an airline. But the full story, and an unmatched record of heroism and accomplishment, begins earlier than that date - in 1946 on the war-ravaged China mainland. There, General Claire Chennault, of Flying Tiger fame, and Whiting Willauer had formed an aviation company - an aviation company which became known as Civil Air Transport or CAT. For the next three years, CAT played a major role in support of the Nationalist forces trying to forestall the Communist takeover. Already they were establishing the standards, for being able to operate effectively under conditions of extreme difficulty and hazard, which were to mark much of the company's efforts for the next two and one half decades.

When resistance on the Mainland collapsed in 1949, CIA began what initially was an effort to deny CAT's resources to the Communists - first in the form of subsidy and then, in 1950, outright purchase. In 1954, the CAT complex of aviation companies was reorganized to create the operating element known as Air America and its maintenance and services counterpart, Air Asia. Later, Southern Air Transport was added.

Although at the time of the purchase there was disagreement in CIA and the U.S. Government about the wisdom of this move and about whether or not CIA really needed its own secure airlift capability, the more far-sighted view prevailed. Thus began a saga which, for can-do attitude, professional aviation excellence, individual heroism, and contributions to the conduct of CIA's mission may never be equalled. It was a saga which ended with the final Air America helicopter evacuation flights from the roof of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon on 29 April 1975.

STAT

The aircrew, maintenance and other professional

STAT

aviation skills they applied on our behalf were extraordinary. But, above all they brought dedication to our mission and the highest standards of personal courage in the conduct of that mission.

The plaque we are dedicating today is a smaller-scale replica of a memorial plaque in the McDermott Library at the University of Texas. In addition to its size, our plaque also differs in another very important respect. Under the original plaque are 240 names - names of CAT and Air America personnel of many nationalities, most of whom died serving their company and the United States Government. The majority of those died supporting CIA. Included are some extraordinary heroes whose bravery and achievements under other circumstances would have warranted this country's highest awards for valor. And, of course, the same qualifications would apply to many of those who survived.

The dedication of this plaque today provides to us in CIA an opportunity to formally honor those CAT, Air America, Air Asia



both living and dead, who

STAT

gave so much to their country and to this agency - and who played such a major role in our own history. We still cannot openly recognize their individual accomplishments and their full story may never be told. But the permanent presence of this plaque in the front corridor of our Headquarters building will finally make them, properly, a part of our tradition, a part of us, and ensure that they will be remembered.

The CAT and Air America employees, as proprietary hires, were not CIA employees in the technical/legal sense of that word. Yet we routinely asked them to undertake missions that we could not conduct ourselves, and to accept hardship and hazards we have only rarely asked our own people to face. On a number of occasions over nearly 20 years of a close association with CAT and Air America personnel, I asked a number of them why they were so willing to risk their lives for us with no hope of recognition or credit and, often, for less money than they would have made in routine flight operations. The answer was not a simple one. It was a combination of reasons which differed according to individual role and perspective. But there were two common threads - patriotism and pride; a steadfast belief that we, who they called the "Customer", were important to our nation's defense and that we deserved their support; and a deep pride that they were being asked to do that which, they were well aware, no one else could do.

Background on
Air America

DDA 87-0912
29 April 1987

STAT
MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted]
Chairman, Fine Arts Commission
FROM: William F. Donnelly
Deputy Director for Administration
SUBJECT: A Memorial Plaque for Air America Employees

You will find attached a collection of background memos on the subject of a plaque to recognize the employees of Air American who died in service to the Agency. I would like the Fine Arts Commission to take the lead in designing, coordinating, acquiring, and placing such a plaque. Please contact my Executive Assistant, [redacted] if you need assistance in resolving any administrative details. STAT

STAT
[redacted]
William F. Donnelly

Attachments:

- A. DDA 87-0845x
- B. OCA 86-3890
- C. ER 86-5381x
- D. DDA 85-3784/2

STAT
P.S. [redacted] Chief, Policy and Coordination Staff, DO, has a personal interest in this project and has offered his assistance if you want it.

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

4 March 1988

STAT

This 14"H x 20"W memorial plaque has arrived at our warehouse. It is to be hung on the corner column in the 1E corridor where it meets F. Please let me know whether a special procedure should be followed prior to its hanging.

STAT

Interior Design Consultant
Facilities Management Division

PCS

Policy and Coordination Staff
DDO/PCS/Office of the Chief

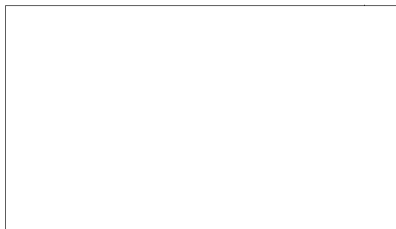
DD/A Registry
87-0845X

23 June 1986

NOTE FOR: DDA

Bill -- Attached per our conversation are copies of my recommendation memo (which I never saw again) plus letters to Senators Melcher and Hawkins. The CAT and Air America Associations should be told of CIA's plans for a memorial plaque. Too much time with no recognition has passed already.

I have no idea what "looking into" means and suspect that no further action has been taken. I would be pleased to help in any way I can.



STAT

*Copy of
note
to
C/EPSS/HRG
only*

25 APR 1987

cy 7 7 18

STAT

SECRET

30 SEP 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for Operations
General Counsel

FROM: [REDACTED]
Chief, Policy and Coordination Staff

SUBJECT: Recognition of Air America Personnel

1. In a recent letter to the DCI (Tab A), Senator John Melcher asked about the possibility of recognition for Air America, Inc. (AAM) personnel who were killed in Indochina. The Senator has raised a valid point. From 1949 through 1975, a large number of AAM personnel displayed extraordinary valor and dedication in the service of their country. In addition to their heavy involvement in our programs in Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and South Vietnam, they provided aerial resupply at Dien Bien Phu, [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] According to my incomplete and unofficial records, they had at least 70 American deaths and eight missing in action over the 26 year period. All of these deaths occurred in support of U.S. Government programs and the majority in support of CIA programs. Some AAM crew members were killed in the same incidents which earned CIA employees stars in the Headquarters building lobby. To date, only two AAM pilots have received CIA awards. Recognition for the many others who risked and/or sacrificed their lives in Southeast Asia on prior operations is long overdue. Since AAM was officially confirmed as a CIA proprietary by the Rockefeller Commission, there are no significant cover problems. Based on discussions with representatives of OGC, there also appear to be no legal impediments. 25X1

3. Although individual honors or an honor roll would be ideal, there are a number of reasons why this would not be a practical approach. (A fundamental problem is the incompleteness of our records.) Therefore, I would suggest an appropriately worded plaque in the Headquarters building lobby or first floor corridor to cover all who served. In this regard, I request your approval to work with the HMAB and the Fine Arts Commission to produce a detailed and formal recommendation for management approval.

Attachment:
A/S

ALL PORTIONS CLASSIFIED

SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Recognition of Air America Personnel

CONCUR:

General Counsel

Date

Deputy Director for Operations

Date

APPROVED:

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Date

25X1 C/PCS [] (30Sept85)

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25X1

25X1

SECRET

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

22 Nov 85

The Honorable John Melcher
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

This is in response to your letters of 26 August and 11 September concerning recognition for Americans who were either killed or were listed as missing and presumed dead while flying missions for Air America in Southeast Asia. You also requested background information on the history of Air America in Vietnam.

We agree that appropriate recognition is due those U.S. civilians who were not employees of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) but gave their lives in support of the Agency's mission. Included in this recognition would be U.S. citizen employees of Air America who died in Vietnam, Laos and other parts of Asia.

We have reviewed the proprietary records on Air America which still exist and have held discussions with numerous officers within the Agency, including several with personal experience in Air America operations. The review and discussions lead us to the following conclusion: individual honors or an honor roll would be ideal, but the incompleteness of our records--both as to the identity of Air America employees killed or presumed dead in the line of duty, as well as to the circumstances of their death or disappearance--would preclude the creation of any individualized commemoration which would be complete and thus equitable. (We note that substantially identical reasons precluded individualized honors for members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the World War II predecessor to the CIA, who were killed in the line of duty.) We are, therefore, looking into placing a memorial plaque in our new Headquarters building which would recognize the contribution of these exceptional people. This plaque would be dedicated immediately after we occupy the new building.

Regarding your request for background information on Air America and its operations in Southeast Asia: below is a precis of the creation, operation and functions of this proprietary. I might also recommend a recent book on Air America by William M. Leary entitled Perilous Missions. This book is not an official history of Air America nor does it bear any official imprimatur. Nevertheless, it is an example of fine scholarship as well as interesting reading.

Air America was the major operating arm of CIA's largest proprietary and functioned primarily to provide air support for U.S. operations in Southeast Asia under cover of a commercial flying service fulfilling, inter alia, U.S. Government contracts. As you are aware, we consider proprietaries to be lawfully formed companies or businesses, which are ostensibly private, but which are owned by the CIA and which function in the interests of U.S. national defense and foreign policy. Corporate headquarters for Air America were in Washington, D.C., with field headquarters in Taipei, Taiwan.

To convey a full appreciation of Air America's raison d'etre, as well as its work in support of U.S. interests, we must begin this background in 1946 in Mainland China. There, General Claire L. Chennault and Whiting Willauer formed a company known by various names but generally referred to as Civil Air Transport (CAT) to haul relief supplies and other cargo in war-ravaged China and to encourage the development of an anti-communist, western-oriented regime. After facing numerous bureaucratic, political, financial and operational problems to establish their airline, Chennault and Willauer were caught in the middle of the civil war in China in the late 1940's. Allied on the side of the Nationalist Government, they used CAT as a paramilitary asset in support of Chiang Kai-shek and the civilian populations in the areas of China under his control.

Operating a fleet of well-used C-46 and C-47 aircraft, and flying with the most primitive support facilities and with non-existent navigational aids, CAT pilots were truly responsible for saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of Chinese. Their exploits of flying into unimproved 2000 foot runways hacked from a mountain side while under fire from communist forces in order to bring food and medical supplies to beleaguered cities is worthy of the greatest praise. From the evacuation of Mukden to the siege of Taiyuan, CAT

unfailingly supported and aided the Nationalist population and forces and was, in the opinion of many, responsible for delaying significantly the Communist victory.

When resistance on the Mainland collapsed in 1949, CAT aided in the Nationalist Government's retreat to Taiwan. It was at this time that CIA began its efforts to save CAT and deny its assets to the Communists. The CIA first arranged cash advances to the company in 1949, and these were eventually credited to the Agency's purchase of the corporation. By summer of 1950, the owners had come to Washington twice to indicate their desperate needs for additional funds in order to continue operations. With the determination that the CIA did in fact need to contract for air transport in some of its operations and that there would be a continuing need for secure airlift--and with there being a general consensus that the loss of this airlift to the Chinese communists would substantially assist them--the CIA made the decision to exercise its purchase option. In so doing, the CIA also sought and obtained approval from the Department of State.

STAT

STAT

Through the years of the Vietnam buildup, Air America and its maintenance arm, Air Asia, performed outstanding service both to Air America and to the U.S. Air Force. Flying in support of the U.S. mission in Southeast Asia, Air America employees, many of them formerly with CAT, distinguished themselves and were responsible for saving the lives of thousands of Laotians and others involved in the long conflict.

At its peak, Air America had total assets of some \$50 million and directly employed more than 5,000 individuals. The employment figures for the entire air complex exceeded 8,000. With the wind down of the war in Vietnam, a decision was made to liquidate the Air America complex, and the Agency conducted an intensive search for competitive bidders. Air Asia was sold as a going concern on 31 January 1975. Air America and the remainder of the complex were liquidated by the sale of assets and the surrender of their corporate charters.

If there should be any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Briggs
Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

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DDA 85-3784/2

15 NOV
1983

NOTE FOR: Executive Director

Jim,

I understand Hank Mahoney contacted you directly concerning the action being taken on a plaque honoring non-CIA employees (U.S. civilians) who gave their lives for the Agency such as Air America personnel. We still must answer the letter to Senator John Melcher. Chuck Briggs has prepared the attached letter giving the history of Air America and CAT. I believe that it is appropriate to add a final paragraph on the recognition of those employees killed. Suggest Chuck might include in his response:

We agree that appropriate recognition is due those U.S. civilians who were not employees of the Agency but gave their lives serving the Agency. Included in this recognition would be Air America U.S. citizen employees who have given their lives in Vietnam, Laos, and other parts of Asia. We are looking into placing a memorial plaque in our Headquarters building which would recognize the contribution of these exceptional people. This plaque would be dedicated immediately after we occupy our new Headquarters building.

/s/ Harry

Harry E. Fitzwater

Attachment:
As Stated

S E C R E T

STAT

ORIG:EXO/DDA

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2013/02/14 : CIA-RDP90G01353R002000070002-5

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Executive Director

4 November 1985

NOTE FOR: DDA

Harry:

John agreed with my comment that we ought not to single out Air America employees for recognition, but rather should do something which honors all of those who have died while serving us. He did not accept my suggestion that we do nothing. He wonders if we could use the occasion of the Donovan statue installation in some way to make some sort of statement about all of those people around the world (not employees) who have given their lives in the service of our cause. Any other suggestions would be welcome.

STAT
STAT

Executive Director

23 October 1985

Note for: DDCI

John,

As I understand it, we give stars to employees who have died in service to their country. Most Air America personnel were not employees; they were proprietary hires, a distinction we have gone to court to maintain. Jim has not proposed stars, but rather a plaque of some kind. If we recognize these folks, I think we should recognize all of those who have died while serving us. So, I would vote either for a very simple plaque honoring every non-employee who has died in Agency service--or nothing. On balance, I think we ought to forget this one.



REC
LOGGED

FAC 001-87

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

FROM: [REDACTED]

Chairman, Fine Arts Commission (FAC)

SUBJECT: Memorial Plaque for Air America Employees

REFERENCE: DDA 87-0912, Same Subject, 29 Apr 87

1. In response to your memorandum, this is the FAC plan for creating and displaying a plaque honoring those who died in service to the Agency while employed with Air America. Your guidance is needed on the source of funds for this effort.

2. The Interior Design Staff (IDS/FMD/OL) will serve as the focal point for this effort. They will coordinate with Mr. [REDACTED] C/PCS/DDO regarding design requirements and language. The FAC will review the design, and will also coordinate a suitable site for the plaque. We note that Mr. Gries, in his letter to Senator Boschwitz, committed the Agency to displaying this plaque in the new building. Nevertheless, there is a previously agreed position that such plaques will be mounted on the pillars between the windows overlooking the main courtyard of the existing building. Funds for this effort could be taken from those available for the procurement of the art from Mr. Melzac's collection.

3. At an appropriate point, we will present the proposed design and offer display site alternatives for your approval.

Source of Funds:

[REDACTED]
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION

The DDA will provide \$ for design work, if the cost is small - under \$2,500. Then we regroup.

ADMINISTRATIVE INTERNAL USE ONLY

Employee
Bulletin

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STAT

MEMORIAL
Background



Deputy Director
for Administration

DDA 87-0124
23 January 1987

NOTE FOR: Chairman, DCI MAG

SUBJECT: Annual Memorial Ceremony

Thanks for your note of 16 January. I have asked Protocol Branch to be the action office for arranging the annual memorial ceremony.

William F. Donnelly

cc: Executive Director
Chief, Protocol Branch

STAT:

ORIG: EXA/DDA : 23Jan87

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- Original - Addressee w/atts
- 1 - Executive Director w/atts
- 1 - Chief, Protocol Br w/atts
- 1 - DDA Subject w/atts
- 1 - DDA Chrono w/o att
- 1 - EXA/Chrono w/atts

16 January 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director For Administration

STAT FROM:
Chairman, DCI Management Advisory Group

SUBJECT: Annual Memorial Ceremony

The DCI MAG recommended to the Executive Director late last year that the Agency adopt an employee suggestion that we should have an annual memorial ceremony to honor Agency employees who have died in the line of duty. The MAG envisioned a program to be held in the lobby area that would involve an invocation by a local clergyman, a speech by the DCI or DDCI, and the placing of a wreath near the memorial stars. As you can see from the attached material, the Executive Director has approved the proposal and has suggested that it be handled in coordination with the Protocol Office.

STAT I have discussed this with Protocol. thought this should be
handled by DA in coordination with them, and I am therefore bringing this to
STAT your attention for further action. The DCI MAG is prepared to assist in any
way it can in establishing what we hope will become a worthwhile tradition in
the Agency.

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

24 November 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

THROUGH: Executive Secretary

FROM:
Chairman, DCI/MAG

SUBJECT: An Agency Memorial Ceremony

1. The Awards Branch of the Office of Personnel recently asked the DCI MAG to review a suggestion that the Agency should hold an annual memorial ceremony to remember Agency employees who died in the line of duty. The DCI MAG thought this was an excellent idea and recommended that it be adopted. The Office of Personnel also approved the suggestion and agreed that the DCI MAG should go forward to you with our ideas on how this suggestion might be implemented.

2. The DCI MAG suggests that we have a ceremony either around Memorial Day or tied in with the annual celebration of the Agency's "birthday" in September. We envision a program in the lobby centered on the Memorial Stars which would include an invocation by an appropriate member of the local clergy, a speech by the DCI or DDCI and the placing of a wreath. Employees might be given tickets to attend -- especially younger employees -- and the ceremony could be recorded for other locations.

3. Our initial thought was that either Public Affairs or Protocol might be the most appropriate action office for this project since both have experience in handling such ceremonies. Alternatively, the DCI MAG is prepared to sponsor such an event with the cooperation of other elements of the Agency.

4. We recommend that you approve the adoption of this suggestion and determine which office should handle the project.

STAT

STAT

APPROVED:

Executive Director

DISAPPROVED:

Executive Director

Date:

2 . 1986

*Protocol Branch to advise
concerning arrangements and
details.*

TITLE OF SUGGESTION Annual memorial meeting to remember those who died in the service of the Agency	SUGGESTION NO. 2860281
SUGGESTION METHOD N/A	
I SUGGEST The star-studded marble wall in the main Hqs lobby has been erected to commemorate those who gave their lives in the service of the Agency. In my observation, the majority of our employees, particularly the younger generation, are barely aware of the existence or the significance of this memorial. I would like to suggest, therefore, that on an appropriate day each year we hold a commemorative meeting in front of this memorial at which the Director, or another top official of the Agency, would say a few words about the meaning of this monument and those honored by the stars carved into its marble. Attendance of this meeting, during which a small wreath could be laid, would be optional but encouraged.	
ADVANTAGES This proposal aims to be a morale booster, particularly for the younger employees--the benefits are therefore intangible. The costs of such a yearly celebration would, in my opinion, be amply made up for by the resulting rise in employee morale and pride in our achievements which, in turn, would greatly contribute to our continuing effort to achieve excellence.	

Form 244
(2-84)USE PREVIOUS
EDITIONS

CONFIDENTIAL
CLASSIFY AS APPROPRIATE

☐ DCL ☐ RVW _____
 ORV _____ BY _____

(47)

25 May 1988

JUDGE:

You are to make short introductory remarks at the Second Annual Memorial Ceremony at Headquarters on Tuesday, 31 May 1988, at 2:30 p.m. You will be introduced by the chairman of the DCI Management Advisory Group, an employee currently under cover. After your remarks, you will introduce Dick Stolz, Deputy Director for Operations, who will provide commemorative remarks. A complete background package is being prepared by Protocol.

In your remarks, you note that "Those of us in this room are not merely observers at this ceremony. . . . We are remembering men and women who were our friends and colleagues." You comment further, "And -- in remembering them -- we are remembering and reaffirming the importance of the mission for which they gave their lives."

Your proposed remarks are attached.

STAT



Bill Baker

Attachments:
As Stated

STAT
DCI/PAO/WMB



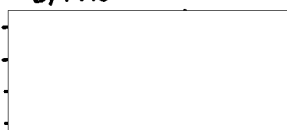
STAT
Distribution:

Orig - DCI

1 - D/PAO

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1 -



1 - ER 88

1 - PAO Registry

1 - Ames (Hold)

STAT

1 - (Chrono)



P-313-1R

PROPOSED REMARKS
BY
WILLIAM H. WEBSTER
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AT THE
SECOND ANNUAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY
CIA HEADQUARTERS
MAY 31, 1988

WE ARE HERE TODAY -- AT THIS SECOND MEMORIAL CEREMONY -- TO HONOR OUR COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES WHILE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY. WE ARE HERE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THEIR GREAT COURAGE AND THEIR SACRIFICE; AND TO RECALL, IN A PRIVATE CEREMONY, OUR OWN LOSS.

THOSE OF US IN THIS ROOM ARE NOT MERELY OBSERVERS AT THIS CEREMONY, AND WE ARE DOING MORE THAN NOTING STARS ON A WALL OR NAMES IN A BOOK. WE ARE REMEMBERING MEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE OUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES. MEN AND WOMEN OF INTELLIGENCE, ACCOMPLISHMENT, AND PATRIOTISM.

AND -- IN REMEMBERING THEM -- WE ARE REMEMBERING AND REAFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MISSION FOR WHICH THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES. WE IN INTELLIGENCE ARE NOT CALLED UPON TO SERVE IN SAFE HAVENS. INSTEAD, WE ARE ASKED TO COLLECT INTELLIGENCE IN AREAS THAT ARE DISTANT AND HOSTILE, OFTEN AT CONSIDERABLE RISK TO OURSELVES AND OUR

FAMILIES. WE UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THIS RISK BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT WITHOUT INTELLIGENCE OUR NATION WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY.

EARLIER THIS MONTH, I JOINED OTHERS IN A CEREMONY AT ARLINGTON CEMETARY COMMEMORATING WILLIAM BUCKLEY. PRESIDENT REAGAN SENT A LETTER TO THE BUCKLEY FAMILY, SAYING OF BILL: "HE KNEW WHAT DANGERS AWAITED HIM, NOT BECAUSE OF WHAT HE WAS AS AN INDIVIDUAL, BUT BECAUSE OF WHAT HE STOOD FOR AND THE CAMPAIGNS OF FEAR AND TERROR HE STOOD AGAINST. HE FACED THOSE DANGERS NOT FOR PERSONAL ADVANTAGE OR PUBLIC ACCLAIM; INDEED, HE FACED THEM KNOWING THAT HIS WORK WOULD EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDE THE KINDS OF RECOGNITION MOST OFTEN ACCORDED A PERSON OF HIS ABILITY."

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S WORDS APPLY AS WELL TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WE HONOR TODAY. WHETHER THEY SERVED AS AGENCY OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES OF AIR AMERICA, EACH CONTRIBUTED SKILL, ENERGY, AND LOYALTY IN ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND OPPOSING CAMPAIGNS OF FEAR AND

TERROR. AND LIKE BILL BUCKLEY, THEY KNEW THEY WOULD NOT RECEIVE THE PUBLIC RECOGNITION THAT THEIR ACTS OF BRAVERY MERITED.

IT IS BOTH OUR PRIVILEGE AND OUR DUTY TO RECOGNIZE THOSE ACTS OF HEROISM, PRIVATELY OFFERED, FOR THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION. WE ALONE KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONTRIBUTION THESE MEN AND WOMEN MADE. AND WE SHARE IN THE LEGACY OF COURAGE, DEVOTION, AND SELFLESSNESS THAT IS THEIR ENDURING GIFT TO THEIR COUNTRY.

STAT

THE MAN WE HAVE CHOSEN TO HONOR SPECIFICALLY TODAY IS

STAT

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS, DICK STOLZ, WILL

NOW TELL YOU ABOUT HIS LIFE AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO HIS STAR ON THE WALL.

88-1217X

16 March 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Public Affairs
Director of Public AffairsFROM:
Chief, Protocol Branch

SUBJECT: Request for DCI to Preside at Annual Memorial Ceremony

1. It is requested that the DCI preside at the Agency's second Annual Memorial Ceremony to be held in the lobby of the Headquarters Building.

Background on Annual Memorial Ceremony

As a result of an Agency employee suggestion, the first annual memorial service honoring those Agency employees who lost their lives in line of duty and who are commemorated by a star in the lobby of the headquarters building was held last year on 27 May 1987. (You might recall this was held the day after your swearing-in ceremony, and you attended.)

Remarks were made by the DDCI; the moderator was the Chairman, of the Agency's Management Advisory Group; and the DDO made commemorative remarks about an employee who is represented by a star. The program closed with Mr. Gates placing a wreath by the memorial stars. (A copy of last year's program is attached for your information.)

We plan a similar program this year. In addition to the memorial service described above, we also plan the dedication of a memorial plaque for Air America, Inc. (AAM) employees who died in service to the Agency. (Note: Air America was the major operating arm of CIA's largest proprietary and functioned primarily to provide air support for US operations in Southeast Asia under cover of a commercial flying service.) This commemorative plaque resulted from a letter the Agency received in 1985 from Senator John Melcher to recognize the large number of AAM personnel who displayed extraordinary valor and dedicated involvement in our programs in Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and South Vietnam for the period from 1949 through 1975.

Date/Time/Place:

31 May 1988, 1430 Hours, Headquarters Lobby

Classification Level:

SECRET

SECRET

DCI
EXEC
REG

P-313-11

SECRET

SUBJECT: Request for DCI to Preside at Annual Memorial Service

Attendees:

Senior Agency officials; Agency dependents of employees commemorated on wall; proportionate number of Agency employees

Total Number Expected to Attend:

125 seated + several standing.

Point of Contact:

25X1 Chief, Protocol Branch

25X1 2. Your opening remarks will be prepared by
Chairman, DCI Management Advisory Group and will be forwarded to Director of Public Affairs as soon as received.

25X1



Attachment:
As stated

25X1



CONCUR:

25X1



18 MAR 1988

Director of Public Affairs

Date

APPROVED:

/s/ WHW

Director of Central Intelligence

23 MAR 1988

Date

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee (To be returned to the Originating Office
for the Official File)

- ① - ER
- 1 - DD/PAO
- 1 - D/PAO
- 1 - DCI
- 1 - [redacted] (Exec Asst to the DCI)
- 1 - [redacted] (Public Affairs Officer)
- 1 - [redacted] (Pers Asst to the DCI)
- 1 - DCI Security
- 2 - PB

STAT

STAT

allied

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